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THE TERRITORY OF ANADYR.

(From the Russian of E. Olssufjev, by E. Bondy.)

The territory of Anadyr occupies an area of irregular form of about 567,000 square miles, having a peninsula in the east, the so-called Chukchi Peninsula. The country is divided into three parts—the northern, which is almost uninhabited, and has been but little explored; the eastern, consisting of Chukotski Noss, and the southern, which occupies the valley of the Anadyr River. The last forms a broad, partly hilly territory, and is surrounded by mountains, which approach each other more and more as the river nears its mouth, and almost enclose it at that point. From about the middle course of the Anadyr the tundras are covered with low bushes, dwarf larches, cedars and willows, and towards the east even this sparse vegetation ceases.

The aspect of the country about the Novo Marinsk Post is especially dreary, for there is nothing to be seen but a vast expanse of greyish-yellow hills, covered with moss, though along the upper course of the Bielaja and its branches some poplars are found, and there is a surplus of good timber along the upper course of the rivers. This can always be counted upon to supply the demand along the lower course of the Anadyr.

The Anadyr rises in the Stanovoi Mountains, and as far as Jaripol it has the appearance of a large mountain stream. Here it is joined by the Pelidon, and attains a width of 170 metres, and the current becomes so strong that it is exceedingly difficult for a boat to make its way to Jaripol from Markovo.

The depth of water in the lower course of the river varies between two and four and a half metres, but near the mouth it does not exceed one metre.

Below the confluence with the Krasnaya there are formed on both banks peninsulas of sand, which make natural harbors for the boats, though even here, owing to the strong winds, navigation is not without danger.

The river water is not drinkable opposite the Novo Marinsk Post, as it is already mixed with the sea water, but near Point Kedrov it becomes drinkable at low tide. Near the so-called American Neck of Land the water still has at times a bitter taste, but above this point the influence of the sea water is not noticeable. Sweet water, however, is obtained from the tundras and from the thick layers

of snow which lie piled up as high as ten or twelve feet along the banks; these are drifts made by the winter storms and they never disappear before the end of August.

The ice of the Anadyr generally begins to move between the 1st and the 13th of June, but for a month before that time ice-holes begin to make their appearance.

Little is known of the Krasnaya and Bielaya Rivers, which empty into the Anadyr, as they have never been explored; but judging by the reports of the Chukchis, they must be streams of considerable size.

Neither do we possess much information about the Chukchi Peninsula, except that it is perfectly barren, and that the northern coast is indented and cut by many gulfs and bays.

The climate of the Anadyr territory is less severe than its latitude might lead us to expect. The western part, indeed, is influenced by the climate of the continent, but the softening effect of the Pacific Ocean is felt in the east. In Markovo spring begins on the 1st of June; while near Novo Marinsk the river at this time is still covered with ice, and a change does not take place before the end of the month.

THE POPULATION.—The Russians live in the village of Markovo and in small settlements near by. Markovo is situated on the left bank of the Anadyr, *i. e.*, on its middle course, and consists of 41 houses and 340 inhabitants. This is the winter residence, but in summer the people remove to other places, about twenty-five miles away. The whole population speaks Russian, and knows no other tongue.

They all belong to the parish of Markovo, and they are divided into three classes—the rich; the middle class, mostly employees of the rich; and the very poor. Most of them live in huts, but the poor in tents, after the fashion of the Yakuts. The richest only have glass windows in their houses, others use blocks of ice in place of glass.

The rich have wooden floors in their homes, and are provided with chairs, a table and a bed. The poor have just a few benches along the wall. In one corner there is a shrine; in another the fire-place. Several of the poorest families live together in one hut, the roof of which extends about one yard above the surface of the earth, as the interior is dug into the ground. The small windows hardly admit any light. Reindeer skins are spread on the ground, but there is no furniture at all. The tenants of this abode hardly find room to sleep.

There are no fences around the houses, but only a shed for keeping fruit some few feet away.

There is but one tent in Markovo; but in the smaller settlements there are more of these, as the people are poorer on the whole. In summer the people sit in the dark to protect themselves against the gnats, which are attracted by the lights.

The dress of the people is very much like that of the Chukchis, which has been adopted by all the Russians of Northern Siberia.

There are different types among them. Some show strong signs of Russian blood; others, descendants of the Tchuvassis, have long flat faces, protruding cheek bones, small black eyes without eyebrows, and thick lips; far from good-looking and strongly recalling the Mongolian type. A third type, descendants of the Yukagirs, have quite expressive eyes and more finely developed features; they are well built and the women are fair. The entire population lives principally on fish and reindeer meat, with a little game. They are used to eating a great deal, and cook from three to five times in the twenty-four hours. Brick tea is a necessity for them; but only the rich can afford to have bread and salt, and provisions are kept more by cold than by salting. Brandy was unknown among these people until quite recently, as it was a prohibited article; but since it now can be obtained by procuring a license, unlimited quantities are consumed. This habit exercises a very demoralizing influence on the people, for as soon as the inhabitant of the north has felt the effect of liquor he knows no moderation in using it, and will ride any distance to obtain it.

About May the ice begins to move and the river water to rise. Gradually the banks are overflowed, and in a short time Markovo and its surroundings are inundated. The people do not mind this, as they are fully prepared to move, and soon go to their summer homes in rowboats. They choose a spot which is convenient for fishing, this being their principal means of gaining a livelihood, and they also devote themselves to the breeding of reindeer during the summer months.

July is the time for red fish or sturgeon, and at this time the hardest work is accomplished. If the fish are plentiful the wealth of the people is assured for the year; if scarce, they move on and seek a better spot. The condition of the rich as well as the poor is terrible if no fish are caught at all, as is sometimes the case.

Kennan describes the terrible condition of the Markovzys in the year 1867 in his "Life in Siberia."

The reindeer hunt begins in August; by September the principal work is over and the people return to Markovo.

A brisk trade takes place in December in the nomadic camps of the Chukchis, for then the merchants return from the Gischiga fair, and a lively exchange of wares, furs, and domestic articles takes place, as money is not in use with them.

Concerning the character of these people, only good can be said of them. Their active life, which calls for long journeys coupled with great privations, has developed in them great ingenuity and a spirit of enterprise. There is a strong feeling both of friendship and kinship among them, and also a love of work.

The family ties are very strong and the father is the ruling lord of the home. Marriages are made exclusively by the will of the parents. Illegal children are born, though this is not considered sinful; yet the women are generally faithful. The people are ideally honest, theft is unknown and fighting is tabooed; neither do they know of social games, plays or dances.

Reading and writing are not yet general among them; but they are all religious, and the clergy are highly respected. Regarding the state of health of the inhabitants of Anadyr, the women have been found subject to nervous diseases and the men suffer a good deal with rheumatism. Cases of scurvy seldom appear. Since a few years a doctor makes annual visits to Markovo, each lasting several days; and every five or six years a surgeon appears on a vaccinating tour. The people themselves devote their time to the study of medicine, or rather the art of healing, which has been handed down to them from the Yakuts and the old Russian population.